

ANALYSIS OF HOUSE BILL 2382

Requiring long-term care facilities to admit only those patients that they can safely and appropriately serve.

SPONSORS: Representatives **Dirvas** and **Mielke**.

BACKGROUND: Washington has four principal types of long-term care facilities for its disabled frail elderly citizens: nursing homes, state developmentally disabled institutions, family homes, and boarding homes. Currently, the state has two state-run nursing homes. One of these nursing homes is the Washington Soldiers Home at Orting, and the other is the Washington Veterans Home at Retz. Both of these nursing home facilities provide a full range of 24-hour services 7 days a week for honorably discharged veterans' and their families. Boarding homes are care facilities that are changing in size from 10-60 residents. Smaller boarding homes are often called group homes and larger ones might be marketed to the public as assisted living facilities. Adult family homes are regulated by the Department of Social & Health Services. The state has approximately 2,300 adult family home providers serving almost 100,000 clients. Of the total adult family home caseload, approximately 10% are state clients.

SUMMARY: State nursing homes, referring to Washington Soldiers Home at Orting, the Washington Veterans Home at Retz, boarding homes, and adult family homes are required only to admit or retain individuals that they can safely care for, give reasonable effort to accommodate, consistent with state and federal requirements, and disclose information about potential long-term care needs and a facility's ability to address them. Adult family home boarding homes and state veterans home residents are required to have a comprehensive assessment of the long-term care needs and preferences before admission. Provisions made for emergency admission to the facility, the facility is required to fully disclose their capabilities and the largest number of residents they represent.